



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER HOLDEN TEACHER SENTENCED TO PRISON TERM IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

BANGOR, ME—Chris Reardon, a former teacher from Holden, Maine, has been sentenced to 36 months in prison for transporting child pornography. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that Reardon was sentenced Monday. In addition to the prison term Reardon will be subject to 3 years of supervised release. He pled guilty to the charge in August of 2004.

The sentencing follows an investigation by ICE special agents operating under the agency's Operation Predator national anti-child sex exploitation initiative.

ICE special agents who were investigating suspected child pornography transmitted via the Internet by Reardon initiated the investigation in July of 2002. A federal search warrant was executed at Reardon's residence resulting in the seizure of several items. After a forensic analysis of the seized items, numerous images of child pornography were discovered.

United States District Judge John A. Woodcock sentenced Reardon for transportation of child pornography, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, section 2252.

Reardon is the first of two former teachers in the Holden school system to be sentenced in connection to child pornography crimes. On Jan. 21st another former Holden teacher, Gerald Bailey, pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography. Bailey admitted he had downloaded pornographic images of children on the school computer. The investigation into this case began in 2002 when two students at the Holbrook Elementary School reported to the principal that they had seen Bailey looking at pornographic images on a school computer in a classroom.

"It is deeply disturbing that any person would engage in activity that supports an industry dedicated to sexually exploiting children," said Robin M. Avers, special agent-in-charge of ICE's New England office. "Especially those entrusted with their care. Those sexual predators must know that they cannot hide behind the anonymity of cyberspace. ICE is committed to using all of its law enforcement resources to combat this horrific industry."

The arrest and conviction of Reardon are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4900 individuals, including 153 in New England.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.